

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It is also a violation of Campaign laws.

I would support Sinclair's airing of this film if they were to run the film Fahrenheit 911 either before or directly after this film. If not, they are shamelessly supporting the Bush administration in a clearly partisan way that is not news, but a campaign advertisement.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. My tax dollars pay for these airwaves, as well as the salary of FCC employees who are bound to serve the public interest, not that of political or commercial interests. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced by big business, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. It is up to you to uphold the laws in the interest of fairness. Thank you.